

REVISED MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS

March 7, 2023

AND LINDSEY P. HORVATH

**Support for Senate Bill (S.) 173 Ethan’s Law: Safe Storage of Firearms**

Over five years ago, Ethan Song, a teenager from Guilford, Connecticut, was killed after accidentally shooting himself with an unsecured gun in a neighbor’s home.

Unfortunately, stories like Ethan are not new to the United States. An estimated 4.6 million youth live in a home with at least one unloaded and unlocked firearm<sup>1</sup> and every single day, “an estimated eight children and teens are injured or killed due to an unsafely stored firearm.”<sup>2</sup>

One of many purposes of gun safety laws, like this legislation, is to prevent unnecessary deaths through the safe storage of firearms. Owners of firearms may be responsible and understand how to handle a gun; however, leaving a gun unlocked when there may be children, teenagers, or anyone else who is not familiar with guns, poses a risk for an accident or a death.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.blumenthal.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/blumenthal-murphy-and-delauro-introduce-safe-gun-storage-legislation>

<sup>2</sup> Id.

**MOTION**

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On February 3, 2023, Senators Richard Blumenthal and Tammy Duckworth, and Representative Rosa DeLauro, along with six other senators and representatives, re-introduced “Ethan’s Law”. This bill would create federal requirements for safe gun storage and establish strong penalties for any violations. It presents the opportunity to reduce access to these unsupervised firearms, which are often used in suicides, mass shootings, and other acts of violence.

California and other states across the country have enacted similar legislation to this federal bill, which would require safe storage of firearms. With the passage of a federal bill, it would bring about nationwide consistency on laws and regulations to promote and ensure that firearms are locked and stored safely.

This bill also focuses specifically on the vulnerability of children and the risk of accidental shootings and death by having unlocked firearms within their vicinity. It has been reported that “73% of children under the age of 10 living in homes with firearms reported knowing the location of their parents’ firearms [and] 36 percent of those children reported handling their parents unsecured firearms.”<sup>3</sup>

Owning a gun can potentially have unintended consequences such as it being used, unintentionally or not, on someone they thought the firearm was meant to protect. Safe storage of firearms and locking firearms with trigger locks only further promotes responsible gun ownership.

**WEI, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.blumenthal.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2.3.21%20-%20Safe%20Gun%20Storage%20-%20Ethan%27s%20Law%20Bill%20Text.pdf>

Executive Office-Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations Division (CEO-LAIR) to support Senate Bill (S.) 173 (Blumenthal) – the amendment of chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to require the safe storage of firearms, and for other purposes.

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